



TOOLBOX TALK #7

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 7

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

One thing we work around every day on the job is a compressed gas cylinder. We rely on them to do our jobs and because they are a familiar item on a construction job site, it is easy to take them for granted. But they can impose a serious hazard.

As with many safety issues, we need to first use common sense when it comes to compressed gas cylinders. They never should be placed near an open flame or heat. Be sure they are kept clear of welding activity. We also need to pay attention to our surroundings. You don't have to be the one to cause an accident to be seriously injured when it comes to compressed gas. Cylinders should never be allowed to come into contact with an electrical current. They should be used only for the job-related tasks they are meant for. They should be handled with care and never rolled, dropped or dragged. Cylinders should be moved on carts when possible and never picked up by the valve covers. Make sure that storage areas for cylinders are well ventilated, and this goes for cylinders that are empty. Even a small gas leak can create an "explosive" environment.

Never smoke or discard cigarette butts in the vicinity of a gas cylinder. Make sure you are using the proper container if you are working with compressed gas. If you see anything – anything at all – in the way of damage or defects on a cylinder, DO NOT USE IT. Tag the cylinder and report it immediately. Oxygen cylinders especially must be kept apart from all other combustibles, by at least 20 feet or by a barrier of at least five feet in height with a one-hour rating.

Compressed gas cylinders also should make us highly sensitive to any fire hazard. Watch for and report any unsafe acts or conditions that could result in a fire. Make sure we have fire extinguishers immediately accessible to prevent a small problem from becoming a crisis.

Facilitator Notes: Review your company policies with regard to compressed gas cylinders in more detail. Emphasize the extreme circumstances that could exist if a cylinder were to fail. Point to the current job site and note the location of cylinders and use them as visual aids. Drive home the point that it is easy to neglect this hazard because these cylinders are "just part of the scenery" but they pose one of the most serious risks on the jobsite.

Additional Notes: _____

Crew Member Comments: _____

Presented By: _____ **Date/Time** _____

Attendees: _____

List additional attendees on back of sheet